

Applic. No.: 10/657,899
Amdt. Dated 10/09/2006
Reply to Office action of 05/10/2006

P2001,0182

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-6 remain in the application. Claims 1, 3, and 6 have been amended.

In item 2 on pages 2-3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 1 has been rejected as being anticipated by Schröder (US 6,215,135 B1) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In item 3 on pages 3-6 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1, 3, and 6 have been rejected as being anticipated by Wada (US 5,739,998) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In item 5 on pages 6-7 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 2 and 4-5 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Wada in view of Satoh et al. (US 4,695,916) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references. However, the language of the claims has been

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slightly modified in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1, 3, and 6 call for, inter alia:

auxiliary electrodes disposed on said common surface and each adjoining one of said second and third regions so that no further structure is formed between the auxiliary electrodes and a boundary of the second and third regions, said auxiliary electrodes being formed as gate electrodes, said auxiliary electrodes being electrically conductively connected with a respective one of said first terminal and said second terminal, and said auxiliary electrodes being so formed on said common surface that no parasitic effect between said first terminal and said second terminal leads to a conductive state between said two terminals; and

a control terminal adapted to control the thyristor structure by an applied current embodied in one of said second region and said third region, said control terminal being formed of the same conductivity type as a surrounding region thereof.

Applicant believes that a fundamental difference between the invention of the instant application and the cited prior art lies in that both Schröder and Wada disclose structures that are considered as MOS transistor structures, which have functionally different characteristics although there is also certain structural similarities with the subject matter of the invention of the instant application.

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The Examiner has stated that a control terminal for controlling the thyristor structure has not been given patentable weight because it is in the preamble.

The Examiner's statement is not understood. This recitation is clearly in the body of the claims. Besides, it is believed that the body of the claims refers to the thyristor structure as recited in the preamble and depends on it for completeness.

The language of the claims has been slightly modified to make it clear that the control terminal is specifically adapted to control the thyristor structure.

Further, Applicant believes that the Examiner has incorrectly interpreted the gates g2/g1 in Schröder and the gates 3A/3C in Wada as being disposed on the common surface. As can be clearly seen in Fig. 1 of Schröder and Fig. 8 of Wada, the gates g2/g1 and 3A/3C are not disposed on the common surface, but rather above the common surface. As can be seen in Figs. 1-2 of the instant application, the gate electrodes (6, 7) are disposed on the common surface, namely there is no further structures are formed between the "auxiliary electrode" and the boundary of the second and third region. Exactly this structure provides the function that the auxiliary electrodes are so formed on said common surface that no parasitic effect

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between said first terminal and said second terminal are formed.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 3 and 6. Claims 1, 3, and 6 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 3, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

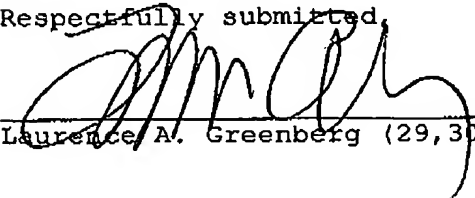
Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of two months pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$450.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

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Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37
CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner
Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


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